



NOTICE OF FUNDS AVAILABILITY

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF TECHNOLOGY OFFICER (OCTO)

DC – State Broadband Initiative Subgrant

The District of Columbia Office of the Chief Technology Officer is soliciting applications for the DC – State Broadband Initiative (DC-SBI). The purpose of the DC-SBI grant is to facilitate the integration of broadband and information technology into the local economy. DC-SBI subgrants include project components of technical assistance, application usage and development, and data collection, integration, and validation.

The DC-SBI subgrant is a citywide project issued by Connect.DC, OCTO's Digital Inclusion Initiative. The subgrant is through the National Telecommunications and Information Administration's SBI, funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 to bridge the digital divide, by funding local efforts to foster the efficient and creative use of technology. The District-led efforts vary, but include programs to 1) assist small businesses and community anchor institutions in using technology more effectively, 2) investigate barriers to broadband adoption, 3) develop innovative applications that increase government services and information, and 4) establish local task forces to expand broadband access and adoption.

The subgrantee will be required to conduct research and investigate barriers to broadband adoption. Based on the research conducted, the selected applicant will write two research studies and a report on the state of the digital divide in the District; explaining the barriers and solutions to broadband access and adoption impacting small businesses and residents in the District.

Eligibility: The following organizations are eligible to apply: nonprofit and not-for-profit entities established in the District, higher education institutions, and research and policy organizations. The purpose of research includes the following:

- Provide quantitative and qualitative research about the barriers to broadband access and adoption in the District;
- Provide a research methodology;
- Describe solutions and best practices to implement and diminish barriers and challenges to access and adoption of broadband technology for small businesses and residents;
- Develop a broadband adoption index to measure users' technology integration;
- Describe how to enhance the accessibility, usability, affordability, and perceived value of broadband access and adoption in the District for small businesses and residents;
- Write two (2) research studies on applicants' findings;
- Write a report on the state of the digital divide in the District; and
- Present findings to OCTO's management team.

Current OCTO DC-SBI subgrantees are ineligible to apply for this grant.

Applicants applying as a non-profit and not-for-profit organizations must have 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status and been incorporated to operate in the District of Columbia since October 1, 2009; must be organized under the District of Columbia Non-profit Corporation Act (DC Code, sec.29-501 et seq.); must be a community-based organization, defined as: non-profit agency with a board of directors that is reflective of the community of population served.

Higher education applicants must be currently operational and accredited; must be organized in the District of Columbia since October 1, 2009; and can either be public/state institutions of higher education or private institutions of higher education.

Length of Award: The grant award is for one year with funding expiring on August 31, 2014. No extensions of funding authority will be granted after September 30, 2014.

Available Funding for Award: The amount available for this award period is between seventy-five and one hundred thousand dollars (\$75,000.00-\$100,000.00). A minimum match of twenty (20) percent of requested grant amount in cash or in-kind must be committed by the applicant in the event of an award.

Anticipated Number of Awards: It is anticipated that the Office of the Chief Technology Officer (OCTO) will have funding available for one (1) award for fiscal year 2013.

The Request for Applications (RFA) will be released on **Monday, April 1, 2013** and the deadline for submission is **Monday, May 6, 2013 at 5:00 p.m. (EST)**. Any applications submitted after 5:00 p.m. (EST) will not be accepted. The RFA will be available on the District Grant Clearinghouse website: <http://opgd.dc.gov/opgd/>, www.Connect.DC.gov, or by contacting Connect.DC at 202-CONNECT (266-6328).

For more information about the NOFA or RFA, please contact Michell Morton, Subgrant Administrator, at (202) 478-5960 or octosubgrants@dc.gov.

Connect.DC will facilitate two (2) Pre-Application Grant Technical Assistance (GTA) Workshops for applicants. **Attendance to one (1) Pre-Application GTA Workshop is mandatory to submit a proposal to OCTO.** To register for one of the Pre-Application GTA Workshop, please send an email to octosubgrants@dc.gov. The first GTA Workshop will be held on **Friday, April 12, 2013, from 1-3 p.m.** The second GTA Workshop will be held on **Friday, April 19, 2013, from 1-3 p.m.**

The workshop will be held at OCTO in the Multi-Purpose Room, 1001 A (First Floor).

No one will be admitted once the workshop has begun and attendance will be taken at the end of the workshop. Pre-Registration for Pre-Application Technical Assistance Workshops is required.

OCTO reserves the right to amend this notice at any time.